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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 9:23am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think it's unfortunate that logic and common sense are taking a backseat to dollars and cents in this ongoing travesty. Anyone who's willing to be truly OBJECTIVE can clearly determine from the findings of fact, that Microsoft is guilty as charged. Additionally, if one is willing to go outside of this particular case and look at Microsoft's historical business practice of stifling and/or squashing the competition, there can be no doubt as to their predatory nature.

When any one company dominates a market the way Microsoft dominates the PC industry, they're in a perfect position to control that market and move it in whatever direction they should choose. Far from encouraging competition and innovation, Microsoft is ideally situated to nip it in the bud before it can ever pose a threat to their own proprietary (and quite often inferior) software solutions. NO COMPANY should be able to exercise that kind of power!

Lest you think I'm completely anti-Microsoft, allow me to say that I AM a user and a fan of Microsoft Office. However, I use Office on the Macintosh platform, NOT Windows! Microsoft to its credit, has established a separate business unit for the exclusive purpose of developing software for the Mac. Although the cynic in me sometimes wonders if that isn't more to appease the Department of Justice than it is to support a competing platform. I don't doubt that Microsoft's support of the Mac is somewhat out of necessity. Were they to withdraw any further development of Mac-compatible software, they would only further paint themselves into the monopoly corner.

I implore the powers-that-be to not cave in to special interests on this one. Don't let Microsoft's enormous wealth and influence dictate your decision. This is about justice and free choice. The consumer should have access to the best and most cost effective software solutions available at any given time. That's only going to happen if you step up to the plate and rein in the 800lb Gorilla that is Microsoft!

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